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Practitioner's Docket No. U 013681-9

**CHAPTER I**

**IN THE UNITED STATES ELECTED OFFICE (EO/US)**

PCT/JP01/01970

13 MARCH 2001

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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

**SURFACE TREATMENT METHOD, SURFACE-TREATED PRODUCT AND SURFACE  
TREATMENT APPARATUS**

**TITLE OF INVENTION**

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**APPLICANT(S)**

**Box PCT**  
**Assistant Commissioner for Patents**  
**Washington, D.C. 20231**  
**ATTENTION: EO/US**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Please amend the above identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS :**

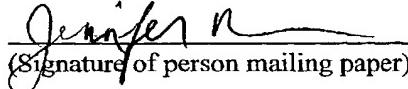
Please amend claims 46, 47 and 48 as follows:

46. A treatment agent which is used in the surface treatment method according to  
claim 1.

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 1.10**

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date NOVEMBER 13, 2001 in an envelope as "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" Mailing Label Number EV011019100US addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

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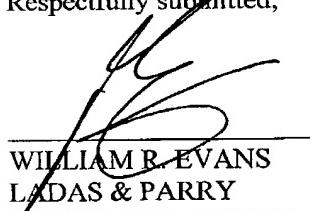
47. A surface-treated product which is characterized in that recorded matter is treated using the surface treatment method according to claim 1.

48. A surface treatment apparatus for recorded matter in which the surface of recorded matter in which images are recorded on a recording medium is treated using a treatment agent, said surface treatment apparatus comprising a treatment agent discharge part which discharges the treatment agent according to claim 1 onto the recorded matter.

**Remarks**

The above amendatory action is taken solely for the purpose of avoiding claim fees that would otherwise accrue due to the presence of multiple dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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46. A treatment agent which is used in the surface treatment method according to [claims 1 through 45] claim 1.

47. A surface-treated product which is characterized in that recorded matter is treated using the surface treatment method according to [claims 1 through 45] claim 1.

48. A surface treatment apparatus for recorded matter in which the surface of recorded matter in which images are recorded on a recording medium is treated using a treatment agent, said surface treatment apparatus comprising a treatment agent discharge part which discharges the treatment agent according to [claims 1 through 45] claim 1 onto the recorded matter.